News Release

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Government of South Australia

Hon Michael Atkinson
Attorney-General
Minister for Justice
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

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2008: A GREEK ODYSSEY

The Minister for Multicultural Affairs Michael Atkinson will this morning open Adelaide's Hellenic cultural festival 'Odyssey'.

"Odyssey means journey and that is what the month-long festival promises: a journey through Greek culture offering insight and romance to barbarians (i.e. non-Greeks) who come along," he said.

The launch will be held at the Agora (in Greek that means 'the place to meet') at the Queens Theatre on Playhouse Lane in the City.

"This is the third year Odyssey has been held and each year it is growing in popularity amongst Greeks, Greek-Australians and lovers of Hellenic culture," Mr Atkinson said.

"The State Government is amongst the key supporters of the festival and this year Odyssey received a grant of $10, 500 from the Multicultural Grants Scheme."

The opening day includes the Odyssey Youth Day with Greek cuisine, modern music, games and the launch of *Whatapotamus,* the winner of the Greek Language Schools Bilingual Story Book Competition.

Other October events include the Grecian Gala Ball, a comedy night, an art and photography exhibition, Greek dance performances and a night of short films by Greek filmmakers.

In November, the four-day 7th Annual Greek Film Festival will be held with the festival's finale - the Orchestral Odyssey Concert held at Elder Hall on Sunday 2 November.

"I'd like to congratulate the organisers of Odyssey and I encourage everyone with an interest in Hellenic culture to get to the many festival events,"

"As Mr Portocalous says in the movie *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* – it will be as Greek as the word kimono.

"My message to the Odyssey organisers and participants is *kali diaskedasi* – have a good time!"

Pronunciations: **porto-KAR-luss** **kah-LEE dee-yah SKEH- THAH-see**